**How power can be used and abused**

Power is evident in many places in this play. Describe the power structures you see in the play and give examples to back yourself up.

How is this similar to Miller’s 1950’s USA?

**How hysteria can displace logic and tear a community apart**

Hysteria allows the people of Salem to act on their hatred and deepest desires, and all under the guise of religion. Describe how hysteria is experienced and find examples from the play.

How is this similar to Miller’s 1950’s USA?

**Guilt**

Reverend Hale, Proctor and Elizabeth all experience the emotion of guilt in some way. Describe the ways in which guilt is experienced by each character and find examples from the play.

**The Need For Social Responsibility, A 'Human Bond', Integrity**

We all have an obligation to combat perceived evil in society yet characters like Parris, the Putnams, the judges and Abigail shirk this responsibility in favour of promoting personal ends. How do they do this? Contrast their behaviour with that of John Proctor who, in placing the well-being of his fellows above his own interests show Miller's belief in a need for personal integrity. Relate this to Miller’s experience in 1950’s USA.

**Societal Problems Can Often Be Traced To Individual Human Failings**

Though the trial has religious and super-natural implications Miller tends to show the troubles as stemming from recognisable human failings. Discuss how the following failings are manifested in the play - greed, vengeance, jealousy, ambition and fear.

**Societies Often Try To Suppress Individual Freedom, In Order To Maintain Social Order**

Discuss how this idea is brought out in the play especially through Proctor's struggle in the final act - the judges' insistence on pinning his written confession on the church door and his resistance to this. Also through Giles Corey who tries to maintain his individual rights (but note the contrast with Proctor's motives).

**Often People Tend to Think in 'Black and White'(eg. good or evil, god-like or devilish, capitalist or communist)**

The upholders of the social order like Danforth are forced into this sort of thinking. How? Even Elizabeth Proctor associates John's sexual transgression with evil but what does she come to see?

How is this similar to Miller’s 1950’s USA?